

# Access of Women to Education in Rural India

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**Abstract :** *Today greater part of our population lives in rural areas. It is difficult in those areas, for girls and women to receive education. On the stress of United Nations Commission, on the status of women different bodies have been organized to access the problem of women in the field of education. In a country like India, due to conservative traditionalism, the status of women has been considered lower than that of men. They are regarded as the bond slave to men for their economic dependence on them. In Urban areas there has been changes in the attitude towards education but in rural areas majority of women folk is deprived of this right as there are still obstacles which hinder their carrier and life also. The situation of the population of the rural areas, especially from the educational standpoint, is point of attention for the authorities. It is impossible to convey an idea of educational opportunities open to women in these areas without making definite plans. This paper attempts to analyze the status of women education in India and highlights the issues and challenges of women education in rural areas. The study is purely based on secondary sources. The study reveals that women in rural areas of India are disempowered and they enjoy lower status than men in spite of many efforts that are undertaken by government. The study concludes by an observation that access to education, change in social structure are the only enabling factors that could raise the standard of women in rural areas of India.*

**Key Words:** *Rural areas, women education, traditionalism, economic dependence, obstacles, rights.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

*“There is no more valuable investment than in a girl's education”*

Educating a girl is one of the best investment, her family and country can make There is growing international commitment to improve women education in rural areas. Education has a greater effect on girl's and women's ability to claim other rights and achieve status in society, such as politics representation and economic independence. Women education has long been recognized as a human right.

Indian constitution guarantees free primary education for both boys and girls up to age of 14 but it is fact that primary education in India is not universal. Overall literacy rate of women is 39 per cent and for men it is 64 percent the urban female literacy rate is 64 percent and in rural areas it is 31 percent that is half of it. The low literacy rate has a negative effect on both, on their lives and on their families. It had also had effect on country's economic development Research.

The correlation between educational attainment and female labour force participation is by no means straightforward. Generally, in India the relationship between education and female labour force participation is often U-shaped. The broader context of economic development, studies detailing this U-shaped relationship with education reveal that poorly educated women employment is suffering driven, and they are forced to work to sustenance themselves and their families. In contrast, good-looking jobs with higher wages encourage educated women to work and disgraces attached to taking up employment may be lower for women (Klasen and Pieters, 2012). Worldwide, women labor market participation has remained moderately stable from 1993 to 2013, whereas the men participation percentage has steadily declined. Though about 345 million women have joined the labour market in the past 20 years, women still only account for approximately 40 per cent of the global labour force. Since 2015, the regional estimates for the participation rate of female labour varied from 19.1 per cent in the Middle East and 65.5 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa. The India participation rate was just 30.5 per cent in 2015. India is a region which comprises varied sociocultural and traditional populations, economic, political forces and religious beliefs, all of which great impact upon the lives of women. It is mainly agriculture-dependent, enormously populated and tradition-bound region, where gender matters represent a complex challenge. At the same time, the education levels have study upgraded among girls, while fertility ratio have fallen. Moreover, since the 1990s, in India it has been able to attain continued high rates of economic growth. However, in spite of these growth paths, the formation of productive employment chances continues to be a foremost challenge in India. Taking an economic viewpoint, it is an important to imitate on whether women have benefited from these expansions in terms of participating in the labour force. Historical gender roles continue to affect consequences, even in the setting of a quickly changing society.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Bhalla and Kaur (2013), study that the education level of the spouse has a greater negative effect (each extra year of male education means a drop in feminine participation of 1 percentage point) than the confident effect on

participation of increasing female education. They also catch some indication of a miserable effect of the developing middle class on female labor force participation.

Jaumotte (2003) working for a salary is chosen by women only if pays at least make up for the lost home manufacture (and the associated costs), suggesting a higher elasticity of female labor supply to wages. Many studies have also highlighted the position of education in models of female labor supply.

Klasen and Pieters (2012) told that in urban India, women participation in the workforce at a very lower education levels are verbalized by economic necessity and there also pull factor coming into play for highly-educated women ingoing the workforce. The deterioration in female labor force contribution in urban areas of India between 1987 and 2009, and also find that demand and supply factors were also at play. On the labor supply side, the main drivers were also rising husband's education, household incomes and the disgrace against educated women looking for unskilled work. On the demand side of labor, they find that employment these sectors appropriate for the educated women grew much less than the supply of educated labors, result many women withdrawing from the labor market.

Cuberes and Teigner (2014) survey about the quantitative effects of gender gaps in labor force contribution on productivity and standard of living. They simulate a work-related choice model with varied agents that executes several frictions on female economic participation and their wages, and shows that gender gaps in labor force participation significantly reduce per capita income. For India, they find that about gender gaps subordinate overall per worker incomes by near about 26 percent.

Agenor (2015) examines an overlying generations model in which time use is showed over three phases (working, childhood and retirement) and they simulate the effect of public policies on economic growth and participation choices. His study also finds that policies also raises female labor force contribution rates and depending on the pertinent policies, economic growth could rise by between 1.5–2.4 percentage points per annum. Through review of these works the objective of the study is to know reason behind decline in labour participation of women, as their ratio in higher education increase. The secondary source of data was for this study.

### **3. Need for Women Education in Rural Areas:**

It has been revealed from the studies that illiterate women have poor nutritional status, low earning potential and autonomy within the household and it also effects the wellbeing of her children. They don't have right of decision making within their families and also outside. They are treated as daily workers and their rights are crushed under the feet of their family members they have less authority in their hands. It is a great problem in this modern era. Hence, it is necessary to provide education to them to raise their status in the society. Women Education Promotes Sustainable Development. It is right to say that when woman acquire important knowledge it gives them greater potential for employment and income earning as adults. When they don't get proper education the impact could be observed. Calculation have shown that for each additional year of schooling, a woman in low income country will increase her future income by 10-20 percent. So, women can play a more active role in the political and social debate and in the development of their own society especially in the rural areas. Education is a major tool which helps a woman to raise the standard of their families. An educated female population directly increases the productivity of their country.

### **4. Government Schemes for Education in India:**

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Rashtriya Samkhya Programme
- Mahila Samakhya Programme.

### **5. Hindrances of Women Education in Rural Areas:**

The main problems that were faced by women from past and are still prevailing are:

- Gender discrimination
- Finance constraints.
- Lack of exposure.
- Conservativism.
- Low need of achievement
- Absence of ambition.
- Social Status.
- Lack of schools and infrastructure.
- Lack of guidance and counseling.
- Lack of trained teachers.
- Marriage in childhood. Ways to Provide Education to Women

## 6. Following steps should be taken to give education to women:

- Change attitude of parents through guidance.
- Startup government initiatives and programs.
- Make infrastructure for schools.
- Train teachers.
- Give freedom to women I decision making.
- Make education free.
- Change attitude towards conservatism.
- Strict implementation of programmes should be started to curb the practices that prevail in society.

## 7. Reasons why Women in India are Unemployed, even after being Educated:

By Swami Vivekananda 'education is the manifestation of perfection present in man', this excellence present in everybody needs to reach its maturity, it doesn't originate to us as a gift but we are to achieve it. Education is very much used and even criticized word. People believed it as the studies accepted out through classroom teaching and books used to pass an examination, thus securing a degree and is considered as end of education. But we often forget that education is very broad concept than just schooling or college, getting a degree is not just end but what next comes how to utilize it, the purpose of education is making a proper utilization of it. The literacy rate of India is at 74.04% in that the youth literacy rate is 81.1% these numbers indicate a huge amount of education (degree) owned by people. Among these ratios 86% are boys and 72% are girls. In India as a developing country around 72% of girls getting educated could be seen as a positive sign for development of a country, but what next? As all we know that only degree is not the end of education and these percentages are based on the numbers of people passing their high school. Out of those 72% girl student only half of them are getting towards the higher education, rest are merely framing their degrees making them show piece. Employment is much need or way to survival in modern world, but unhappily unemployment is a main problem not only in India but in many of other developing countries. Unfortunately, it is more serious concern in India in view of widespread of poverty. This is not because of lack of qualification but, leaving the unskilled Ines even for the skilled people there are not enough jobs found. In this confusion of unemployment women are being most widely affected. Now as we have seen that education ratio has increased over the past few years there has been definitely a change in a society regarding the status of women. But, when it comes to employment the ratio falls poorly and possibly it fails to shock anyone anymore. the Indian census data and government reviews conducted by various agencies it has been well-known that in urban India for every 54.6 employed men there were just only 14.7 working women. So what are reasons behind it, even after being properly educated, women are still unemployed. So Reasons Why Women in India are Unemployed, even after being Educated are given below.

- The most of the women are highly educated and even have ability to secure a job for themselves, but it's a fact that they are not 'paid enough' and this rises a feeling of discrimination against their male colleagues with same experience and knowledge getting paid more. This unfairness causes a negative state and this leads many of the working women to left their job as they don't find it appropriate enough for their qualification.
- As we know the most of women not having being employed is not being quailed enough to secure their job, as many them getting a dead end degree, which is having of no use. Only a graduation level certificates won't help them to get a genuine job. The reason behind women are not reached higher education is "early marriage" they get married.
- On the other hand, those women who even after getting married plans to get a job and luckily they get. But they are quitting their jobs, as in India having the world's second largest population the "fertility rate" is very high, and for every child a woman has it meaningfully decreases her possibility of working. Although in India there is three months paid maternity leave when they become pregnant.
- Insufficient college system in our country that brings out thousands of graduates every year but are not capable of providing job opportunities. Also most of the colleges are not even making their students having some job oriented skills and the result with end up with unemployed.
- there are group of girls who not desire to exert oneself and not having any kind of exposure, this is the very common reason for girls not getting employed opportunity. They have no desire to develop their career or not having interest in uplifting their personality. These are the women coming under this group, where their degrees help them as a subject of qualification in their bio data.
- In most of the developing countries like India, women are not free to follow a jobs like driving truck or cab, these works are measured as man oriented jobs and this jobs mentality prevents from having such kind of professions for women. There are limited job oriented places for women in our country, hence this results reducing the employment rate.

## 8. CONCLUSION:

Woman is an integral part of our society. She is just like male and has birth right of education. Women especially living in rural areas are deprived of this right. But now the time has changed. Today participation of woman is needed everywhere whether it social field or political field. So, it is necessary to start new programs through government to give education to every woman so that their status could be raised from this slumber where they are merged from decades.

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